



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,921	02/12/2002	Sheng Hsin Liao	MR2349-792	3782
4586	7590	10/04/2006		
ROSENBERG, KLEIN & LEE 3458 ELLICOTT CENTER DRIVE-SUITE 101 ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21043			EXAMINER BERHANE, ADOLF D	
			ART UNIT 2838	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 10/04/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/072,921	LIAO, SHENG HSIN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Adolf Berhane	2838	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/17/06.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 14 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 14 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6, 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. (6,061,261) in view of Yang (6,733,329).

Chen et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the different type of connectors for the universal serial bus voltage transformer. Yang teaches the use of different connectors A-type, B-type and Mine-type for connecting to USB. Chen et al. disclose a wall outlet with direct current output in Figs. 3-18. Fig. 3 is a schematic for the power supply, transformer T1 for converting AC to DC. Fig. 8 shows the main body, which is an integrated power supply and switch for use as a wall outlet. Figs. 12A to 12B show a DC voltage selection technique using different sizes and shapes of connectors and plugs. Fig. 13 shows the generation of a plurality of DC voltages from an integrated power supply. Figs. 17 and 18 show the view of a combined AC/DC outlet. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use any one of the connector type taught by Yang in Chen et al. wall outlet with direct current output in order to connect the applicable data device (personal computer, printer, digital camera, etc) on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as matter of obvious design choice.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 8/17/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to Applicant's argument that nowhere does Chen et al. disclose or suggest a portable universal serial bus voltage transformer which converts power from an AC source to a DC voltage required for USB devices, as well as a transformer circuit unit which includes a circuit board disposed within the main body, a transformer mounted to the circuit board, and a plug electrically coupled to an input of the transformer and extending from the circuit board to pass through corresponding openings in the main body for selective coupling with an outlet receptacle defining an AC source, as now claimed. Still further, the reference fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of USB connectors being electrically connected to the transformer circuit unit for passage of the DC voltage provided by the transformer circuit unit there through, and neither discloses nor suggests an arrangement where the plurality of USB connectors are operable to simultaneously connect a plurality of devices to the DC voltage output from the transformer circuit unit, as provided by the invention of the subject Patent Application and now claimed. Applicant's attention is directed to Fig. 3 which show an AC-DC switched mode power supply and Fig. 6 shows the physical structure for a fully integrated switched mode power supply which converts power from an AC source to a DC voltage required for devices, as well as a transformer circuit unit which includes a circuit board disposed within the main body, a transformer mounted to the circuit board, and a plug electrically coupled to an input of the transformer and extending from the

Art Unit: 2838

circuit board to pass through corresponding openings in the main body for selective coupling with an outlet receptacle defining an AC source, as now claimed.

In response to Applicants argument that the Examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F. 2d 1392; 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use any one of the connector type taught by Yang in Chen et al. wall outlet with direct current output in order to connect the applicable data device (personal computer, printer, digital camera, etc) on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as matter of obvious design choice.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adolf Berhane whose telephone number is 571-272-2077. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday 8 AM to 6 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Karl Easthom can be reached on 571-272-1989. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Adolf Berhane
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2838